

## **FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

### **Housing Authority of New Orleans St. Bernard Phase III Housing Development Orleans Parish, Louisiana**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed construction of 120 units of low-income public housing for seniors, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project in August 2007, and issued a FONSI on September 13, 2007. Any federal agency may adopt another federal or state agency's EA, and is encouraged to do so when such adoption would save time and money (40 CFR §1500.4(n), §1500.5(h), and §1506.3), providing the original document satisfies the agency's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. FEMA plans to adopt HUD's EA of August 2007.

The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) has determined that the St. Bernard site is the best possible location to consolidate many of its damaged scattered residential units. The proposed action is the third phase of redevelopment of the St. Bernard property, also known as St. Bernard III or Columbia Parc Senior Residences. It would construct a 120 unit independent living facility for low-income seniors on the city block bounded by Senate, Duplessis, Caton and Jumonville Streets. This facility will provide much-needed additional living opportunities for low-income seniors through project-based Section 8 rental vouchers. The new construction will include 114 one-bedroom, one-bath and 6 two-bedroom, two-bath housing units. The one-bedroom units will be about 721-742 square feet and the two-bedroom units will be about 986 square feet. The 6 two-bedroom units will be reserved for elderly residents that require a live-in aide or caretaker. Approximately twelve units will be reserved for physically disabled residents and those that have a visual and/or hearing disability. The project budget is being funded from HUD Section 901 and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) dollars.

In accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, HUD's EA evaluates the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. FEMA's Draft FONSI concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment.

The fifteen (15) day comment period will end on August 8, 2011. Written comments on the proposal may be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
HANO St. Bernard Phase III Housing Development Project  
1 Seine Ct.  
New Orleans, LA 70114

Or emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office in New Orleans at 504-762-2323; and verbal comments will be accepted at 504-762-2361 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This Public Notice the HUD EA and FEMA's Draft FONSI can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm). The HUD EA and FEMA's Draft FONSI and will also available for public review at the New Orleans Main Public Library, 219 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70112 (504-596-2560) and at the Gentilly Branch Public Library, 2077 Caton Street, New Orleans, LA 70122 (504-596-3100). If no substantive comments are received, the Draft FONSI will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.